

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/768,574

Applicant(s)

AIKAWA, MASAFUMI

Examiner

Art Unit

Ting Zhou

2173

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 9 January 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 42-68.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The amendment filed on 9 January 2006 have been received and entered. Claims 42-68 are pending in the application.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. William Rowland (Reg. No. 30,888) on 24 March 2006.

3. The application is amended as follows:

4. Claim 42 is amended to read:

Claim 42. A method of generating a user interface on a display for setting operation conditions through a plurality of entry screens, the method comprising:

displaying one of the plurality of entry screens;

receiving input on the displayed entry screen from a user to set operation conditions;

if the user selects another entry screen, displaying the selected entry screen instead of the current displayed entry screen; and

displaying a window which shows a plurality of setting results set on the plurality of entry screens, said setting results set on the current displayed entry screen being shown to be distinguished from the other setting results.

5. Claim 48 is amended to read:

Claim 48. A method as claimed in claim 42, wherein one of the entry screens is displayed when the user specifies one of the setting results on the window, said displayed entry screen being associated with the specified setting result.

6. Claim 57 is amended to read:

Claim 57. The apparatus as claimed in claim 51, wherein one of the entry screens is displayed when the user specifies one of the setting results on the window, said displayed entry screen being associated with the specified setting result.

7. Claim 60 is amended to read:

Claim 60. A computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

- displaying one of a plurality of entry screens;
- receiving input on the displayed entry screen from a user to set operation conditions;
- if the user selects another entry screen, displaying the selected entry screen instead of the current displayed entry screen; and

displaying a window which shows a plurality of setting results set on the plurality of entry screens, said setting results set on the current displayed entry screen being shown to be distinguished from the other setting results.

8. Claim 66 is amended to read:

Claim 66. The computer-readable medium as claimed in claim 60, wherein one of the entry screens is displayed when the user specifies one of the setting results on the window, said displayed entry screen being associated with the specified setting result.

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claims 42-68 are allowed.

10. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The present invention teaches a user interface for setting a plurality of items associated with operation conditions of an image processing apparatus such as a printer or copier via entry screens. Each of the independent claims identifies the distinct feature of displaying a window which shows a plurality of setting results set on the plurality of entry screens, the setting results set on the current displayed entry screen being shown to be distinguished from the other setting results. The closest prior art, Ono et al. U.S. Patent 6,295,136 teaches a user interface that displays a plurality of entry screens for receiving user input to set operation conditions and allows the user to select another one of the plurality of entry screens, and displays the selected entry screen accordingly. However, the prior art fails to teach that a window shows a summary or confirmation list of a

plurality of setting results that have been set on the plurality of entry screens, with the setting results set on the currently displayed entry screen being visually distinguished from the other setting results. Thus, the prior art fails to anticipate or render the above limitations obvious.

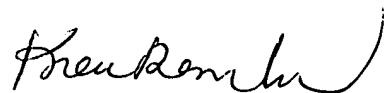
11. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ting Zhou whose telephone number is (571) 272-4058. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7:00 am - 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached at (571) 272-4048. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



KIEU D. VU
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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